

STATUS REPORT ON WELFARE REFORM

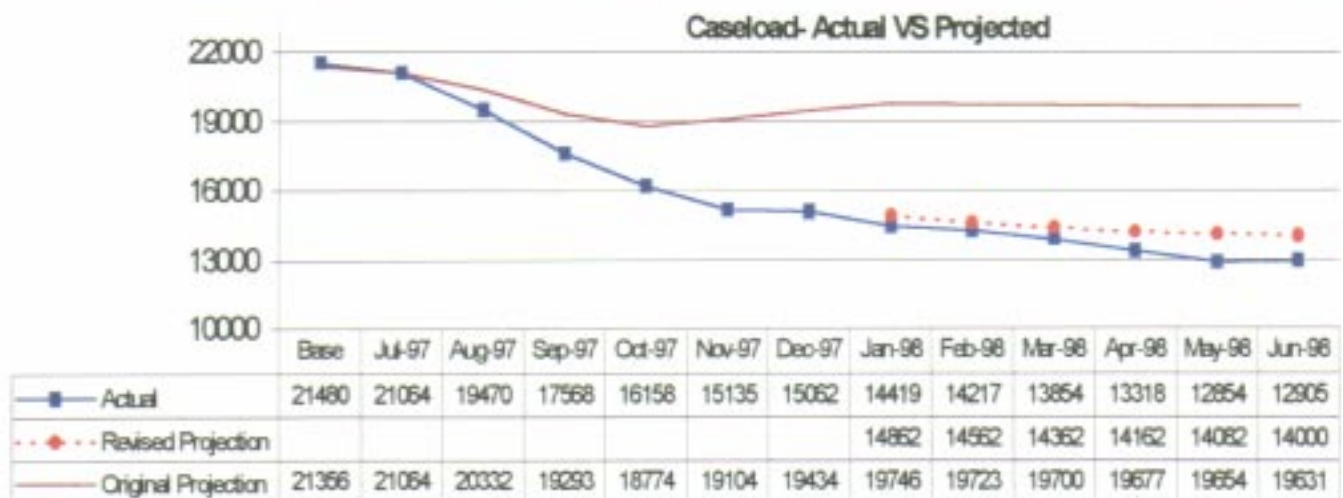
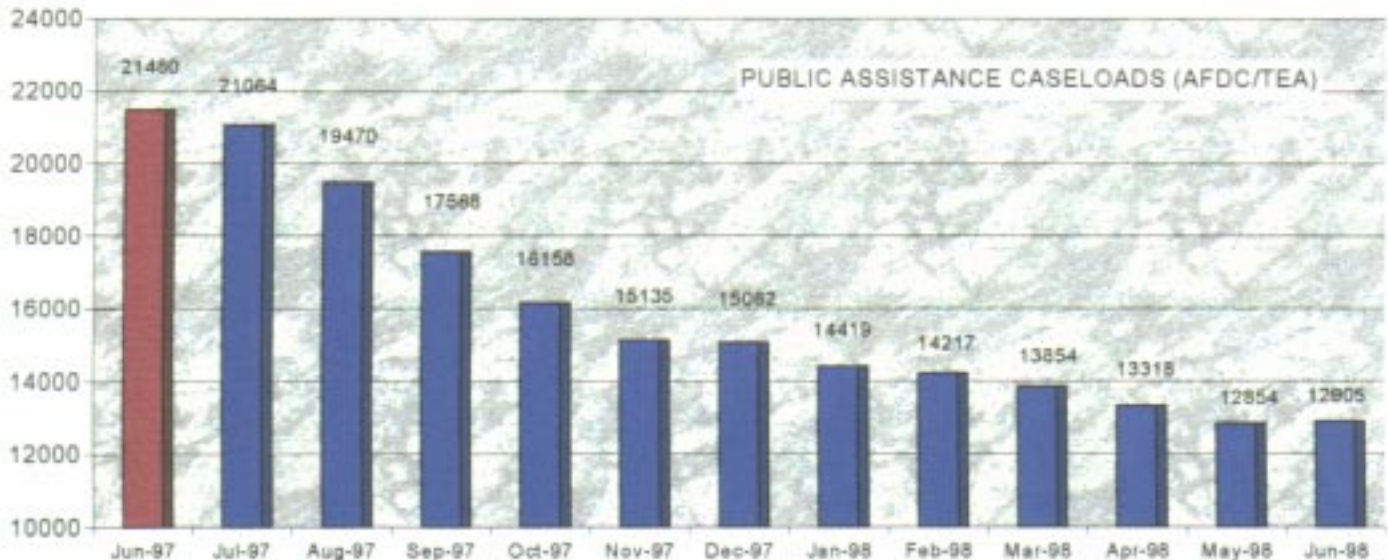
July 10, 1998

Act 1058, *The Arkansas Personal Responsibility and Public Assistance Reform Act of 1997*, replaced the former Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC) program with the Transitional Employment Assistance (T.E.A.) program. The basic thrust of the new T.E.A. program is to assist recipients in transitioning from dependency on public assistance to self-reliance through work.

The executive level summary report is submitted each month to the state T.E.A. Advisory Council and other interested parties.

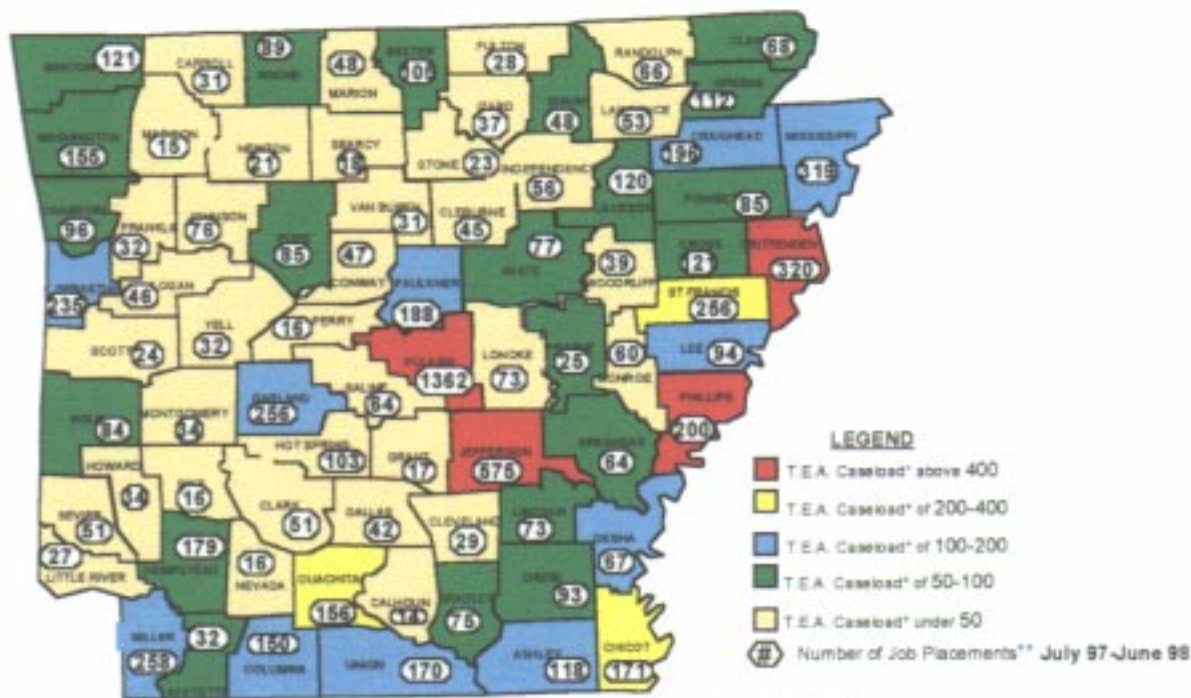
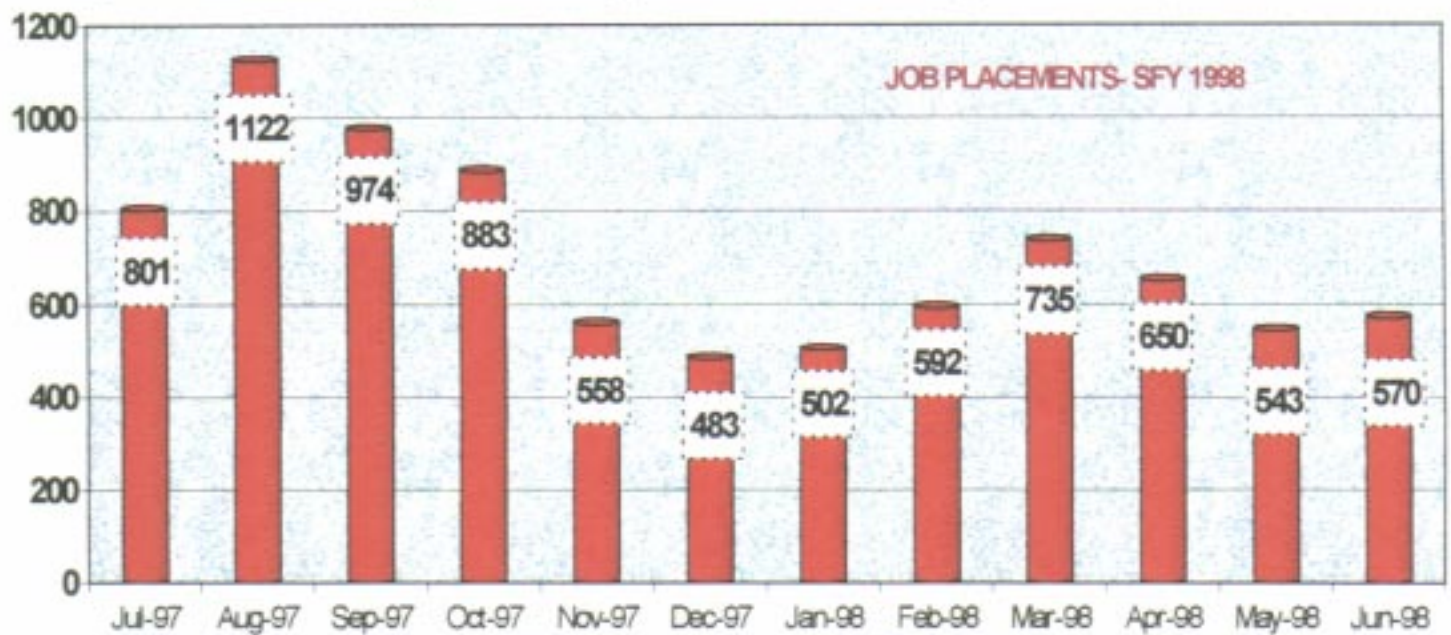
CASELOAD TREND

During the first twelve months of implementation of Act 1058, the number of families receiving public assistance dropped by **8,575** families, or **39.92%** of the June, 1997 caseload.



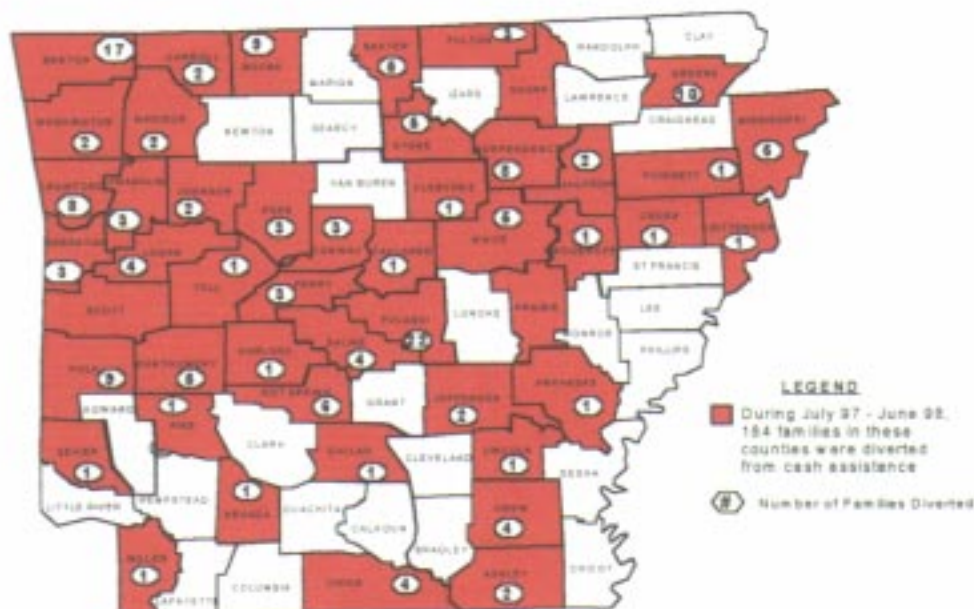
MOVING RECIPIENTS INTO THE WORKFORCE

The following chart and map depicts the number of adult recipients of the T.E.A. program who were placed into unsubsidized employment during the twelve months of SFY 1998. The job placements represent at least 20 hours per week on the job for a total of 8,413 recipients since July 1, 1997.



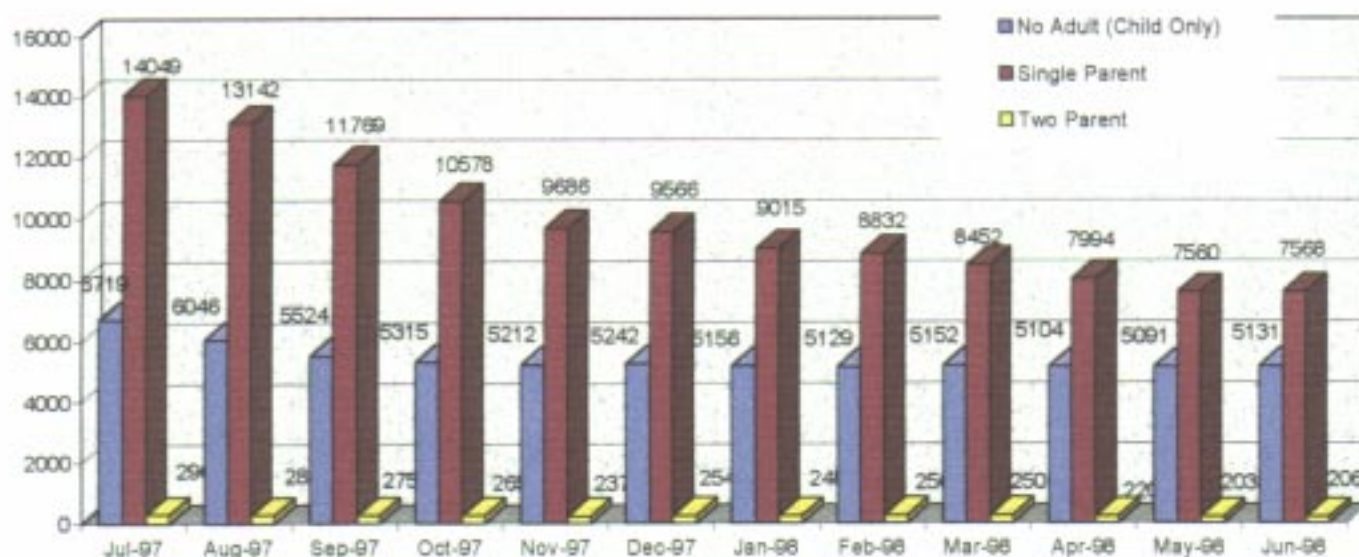
DIVERSIONS FROM WELFARE

During July 1997 – June 1998, **184 families** were diverted from ongoing cash assistance at a cost of **\$94,948** (average of \$516 per family). Regular cash payments would have been over \$36,800 a month for an undetermined number of months. As of the date of this report, over 95% of the diverted families have remained off T.E.A. cash assistance.



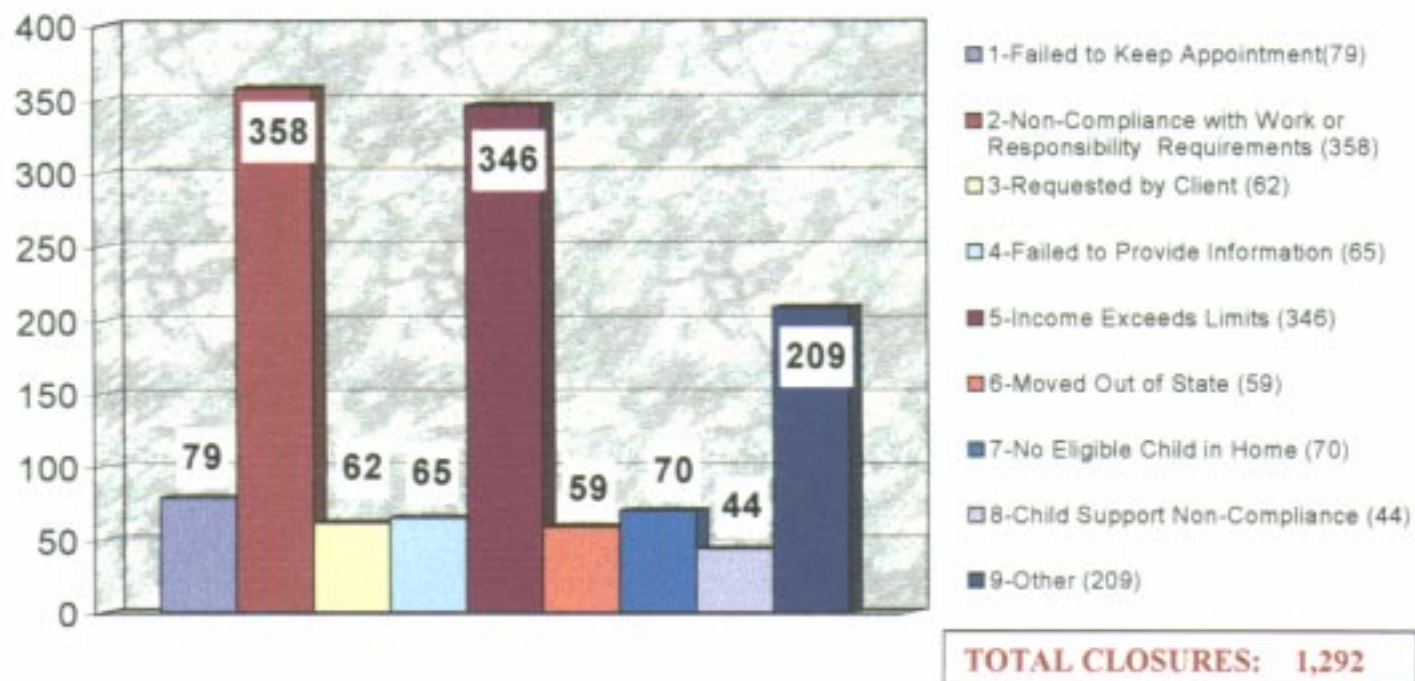
CASES BY NUMBER OF ADULTS IN HOUSEHOLD

The number of cases, by month, broken down by the number of adults in the home:



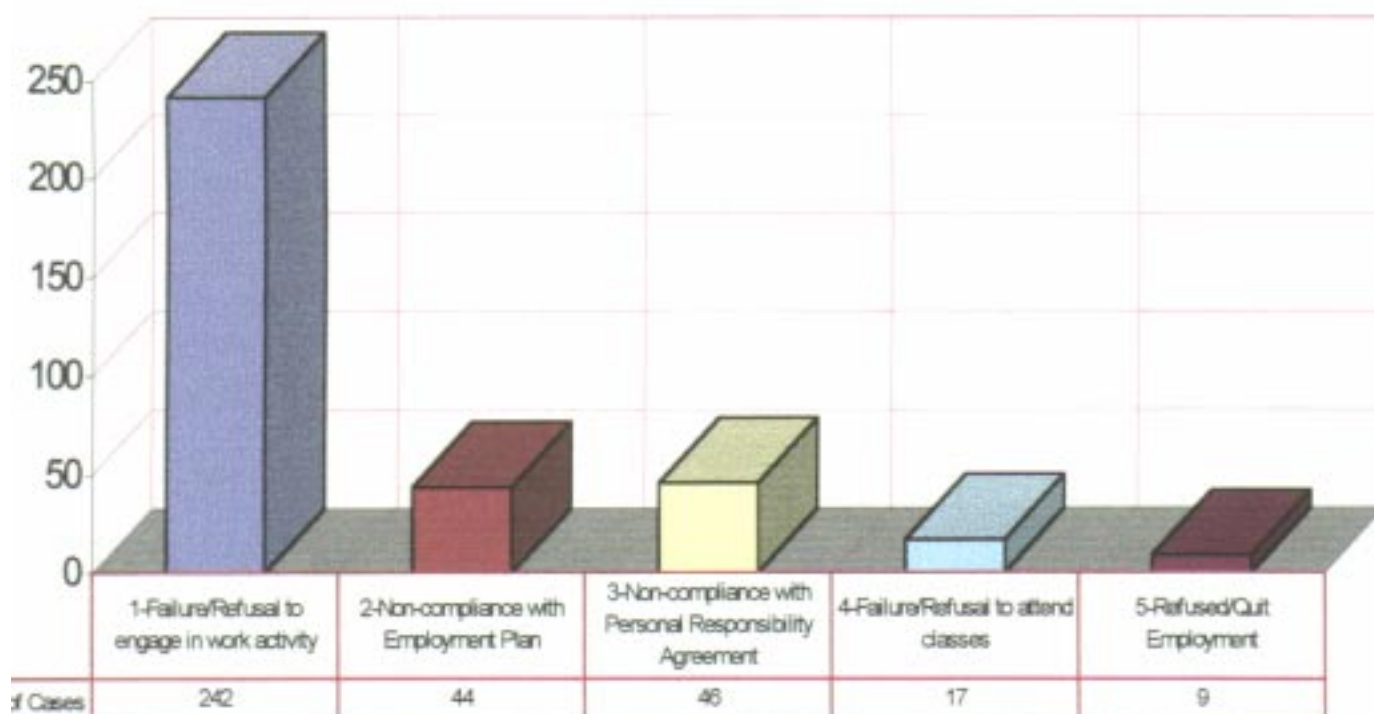
T.E.A. CLOSURES, BY REASON

A total of 1,292 cases were closed during the month of June, 1998. The reasons were:



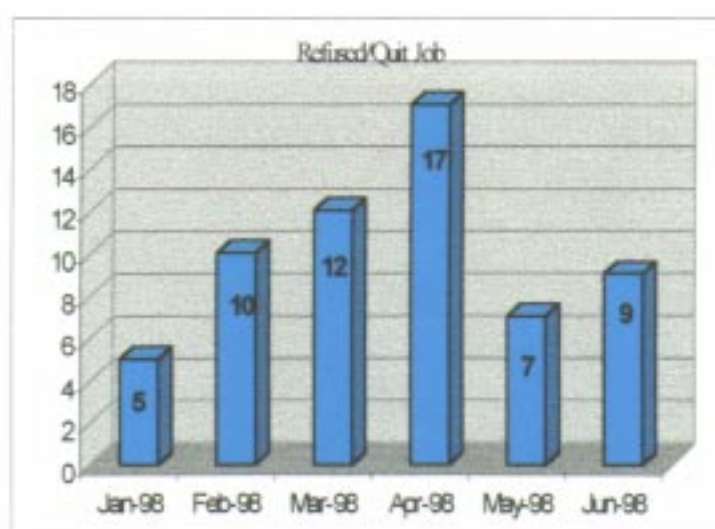
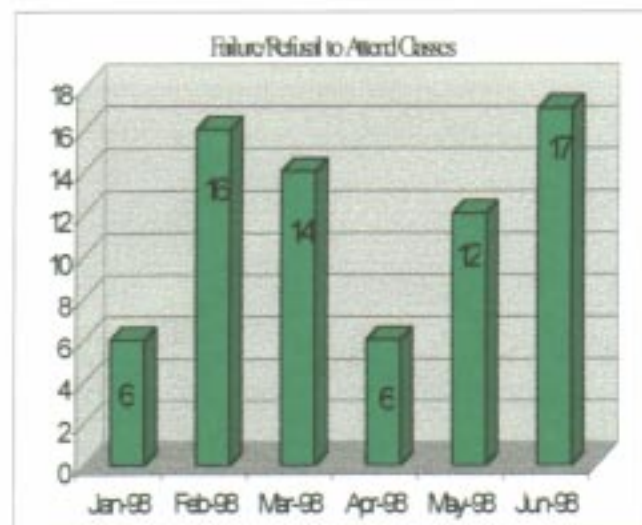
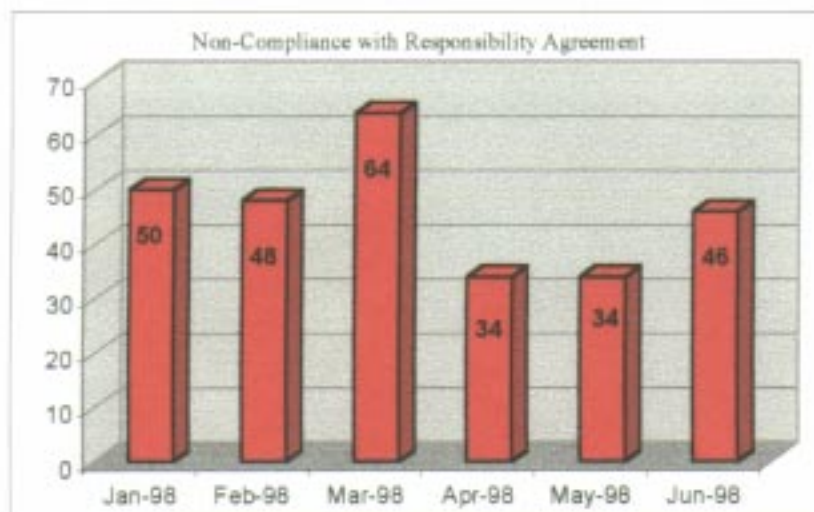
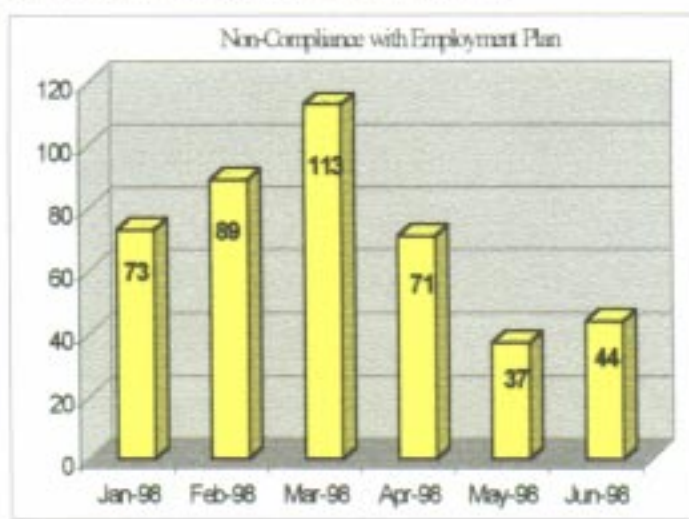
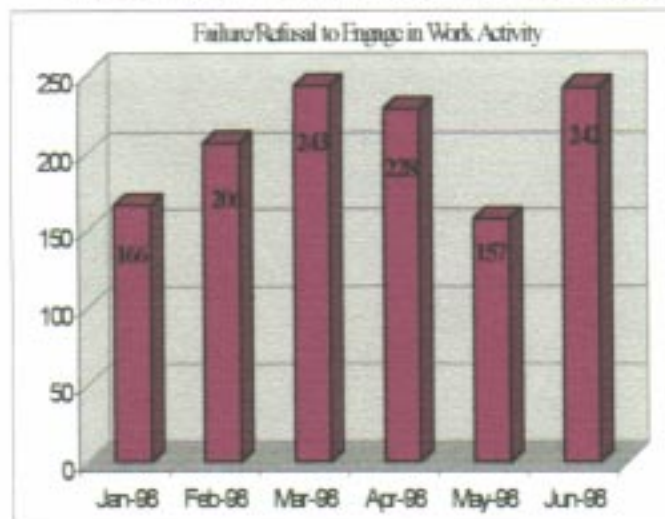
NON-COMPLIANCE WITH WORK/RESPONSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

358 cases were closed during the month of June 1998, due to non-compliance with work/responsibility requirements. The following chart breaks down those cases.



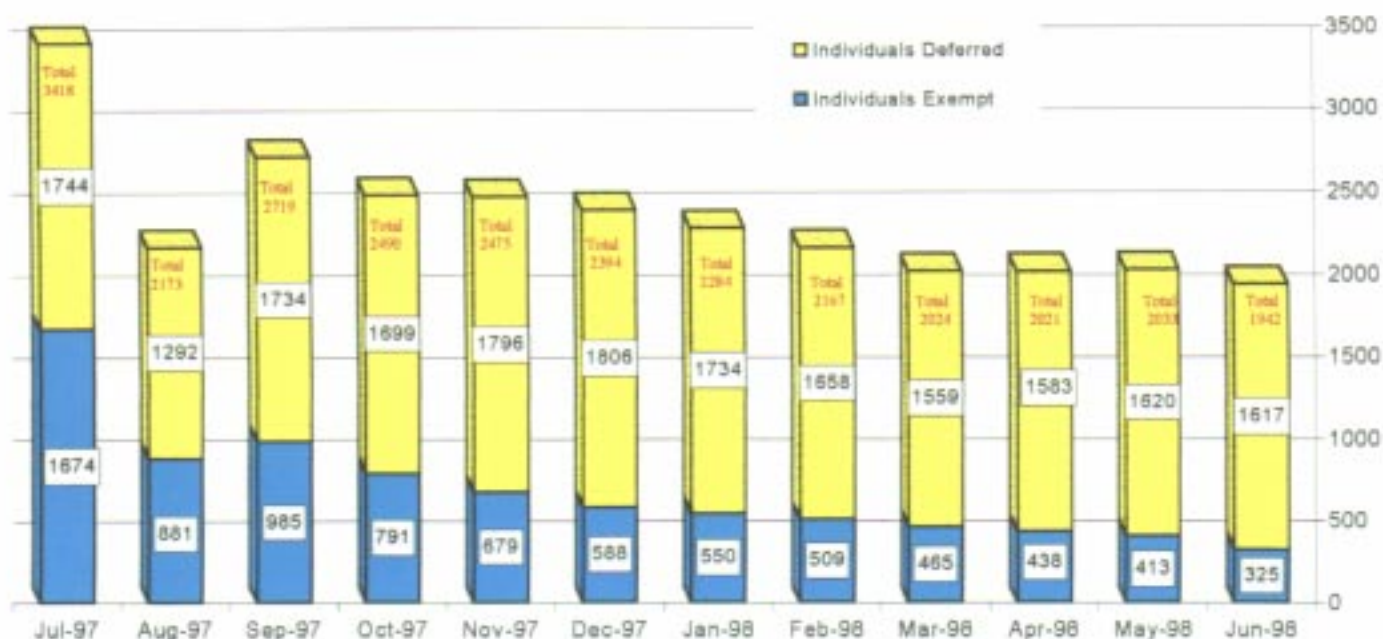
CASE CLOSURES DUE TO NON-COMPLIANCE, TREND CHARTS

The charts below depict the categories of case closures due to non-compliance, over time.



DEFERRALS/EXEMPTIONS FROM WORK REQUIREMENTS

Some parents are exempted or temporarily deferred from work requirements. Some of the reasons include medical incapacity, 3rd trimester pregnancy, parent of a child under 3 years of age or unavailability of necessary support services such as child care.



PARTICIPATION RATE

The federal welfare reform law stipulates that states must engage a minimum percentage of clients in allowable work activities or face significant fiscal sanction. The following chart shows the state's rate of participation for the first three quarters of SFY 1998. [Note: Arkansas was under a six month grace period (from sanction liability) for the period July, 1997 through December, 1997].



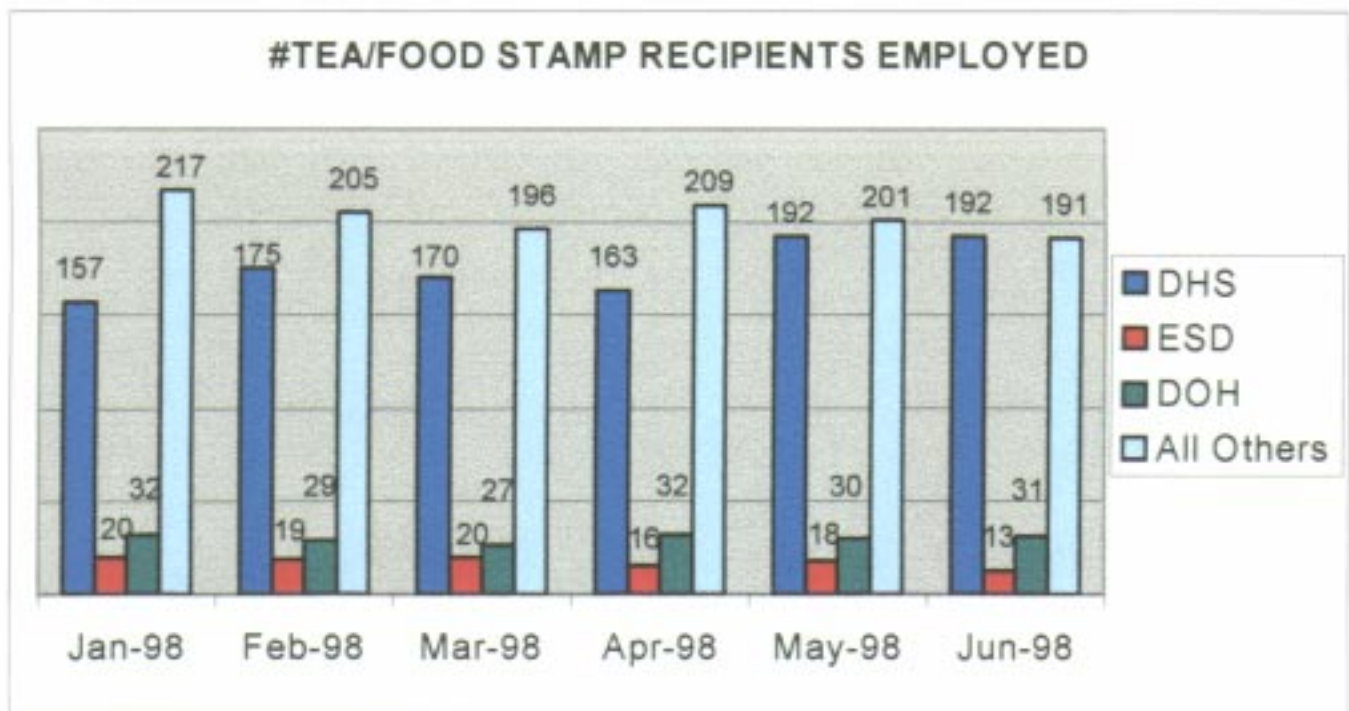
STATE AGENCY EMPLOYMENT GOAL

Act 1058 requires each state agency to establish a goal of filling at least 10% of their positions that require a high school diploma or less with T,E,A, or Food Stamp recipients. The following chart reflects the status of state agency employment as of June, 1998.

**The number of positions identified as "Employment Opportunities" represents the number of authorized positions in each state agency which require a high school education or less to perform the job functions. Source: state Office of Personnel Management, DFA.*

	Department				
	Human Services	Health	Employment Security	All Other Agencies	Total
Total Number of Positions requiring High School Degree or Less	2591	785	69	4150	7595
Number of TEA or Food Stamp Recipients Employed By State Agencies	192	31	13	191	427
Percentage of Employment Opportunities Filled By TEA/FS Recipients	7.41%	3.95%	18.84%	4.60%	5.62%

T.E.A./Food Stamp Recipient Employment by state agencies, over time.



LOCAL T.E.A. COALITIONS

The Act encourages local communities to become involved in welfare reform through formation of local "T.E.A. Coalitions", and development of local plans/strategies.

Prepared by: Department of Human Services

